

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-4 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. In particular, the expressions "which are" and "almost over" are regarded by the Examiner as being unclear. These have been deleted from claims 1 and 2. Claims 5 and 12, which are the other claims rejected by the Examiner in this regard, have been canceled without prejudice. Further with regard to claim 2, the Examiner found the expression "is cured with compressed" to be unclear. A suitable modification to claim 2 has been made herein. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is in order.

Claims 2, 5, 10 and 11 have been rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as anticipated by Japanese document 6-114,860 (JP '860). Claims 8 and 9 have been rejected under 35 USC §103 as being unpatentable over JP '860. Finally, claims 12-14 have been rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP '860 in view of either of Japanese documents 59-67,008 or 1-85,010. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested in view of the claim modifications made herein and in light of the following remarks.

Only claims 1, 2, 4, 6-8 and 10 remain pending in this present application.

Of the pending claims, claim 1 was not rejected over the prior art. Accordingly, claim 1 is allowable in view of the modifications made herein to overcome the rejection under 35 USC §112, second paragraph.

Dependent claim 3 was not rejected over the prior art. Claim 2 has been modified by incorporating therein the substantive limitations of claim 3. Accordingly, claim 2, as amended herein, is in condition for allowance.

All of the remaining claims are dependent on either allowable claim 1 or allowable claim 2. Accordingly, each of such dependent claims is allowable as well.

Based on all of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in proper condition for allowance. Prompt and favorable action to this effect and early passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner have any comments, questions, suggestions or objections, he is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned in order to facilitate reaching a resolution of any such outstanding issues.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application. However, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,
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